

Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association

The Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association (HCPA) consists of chartered specialist physiotherapists with an interest in the physiotherapy management of people with haemophilia and allied bleeding disorders. The group aims to define, promote and encourage best practice for physiotherapy within haemophilia care, providing professional leadership and directing national physiotherapy policy. The group has a strong focus on research, with a dedicated core research team who encourage, facilitate and drive research and development. The HCPA provides an exciting forum to promote the exchange of ideas between those working in the specialism of haemophilia, and to promote and facilitate continuous professional development and educational opportunities for its members.

The annual HCPA educational meeting and AGM, funded by an educational grant from Bayer Healthcare, was held in Birmingham in February 2016. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, this meeting looked back over the past 10 years of physiotherapy in haemophilia in the UK and Ireland. The group was able to reflect on the advances made, including 32 publications involving HCPA members, and it encouraged all of us to continue to advance the quality of care for patients and the academic achievements of the group as a whole. The agenda for the educational meeting reflected attendee feedback from the previous year, and included sessions on psychology and the latest evidence in Kinesio taping, intra articular injections and proprioception. The popular 'free paper' session had excellent submissions and participation from those chosen to present a synopsis of their work. The presentations were judged independently and Lou Sayers (Belfast) was awarded the CPD bursary for her work on the star excursion balance test. At the AGM Paul McLaughlin and Melanie Bladen stepped down in their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair of the group, with myself voted in as Chair and David Hopper from Newcastle voted in as Vice-Chair.

Alongside the annual national educational meeting, the HCPA runs a North and South meeting. The South meeting held in December 2015 focussed on synovitis, outcome measures and research ideas. The North meeting held in May 2016 focussed on developing a business case, radiosynovectomy, GAITRITE and outcome measures.

The 9th Annual Congress of EAHAD, held in Malmo, Sweden in February 2016, had three abstracts accepted from HCPA members to be presented as posters. In July 2016, the 32nd WFH World congress was held in Orlando, Florida. The turnout from the UK was strong, as was participation. The HCPA members had three free paper presentations, one moderated poster, one invited speaker and seven posters.

The HCPA continues to be represented on a national level in the UKHCDO Musculoskeletal Working Party and in the National CRG for Haemophilia. It is also represented in the EAHAD Physiotherapy committee.

I would finally like to thank Paul McLaughlin and Melanie Bladen for their dedication and hard work over the past 10 years. It is with credit to them that the HCPA has developed into such a supportive, collaborative group which is now recognised for its expertise and research on an international level.

Anna Wells
Chairman, Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association
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